

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5971

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

US MISSION NEW YORK 1302

UNCLAA CAPE TOWN 0578

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TAGS: PINT, SF

SUB: THERON COMMISSION MEMBERS

REF: CAPE TOWN 0542

SUMMARY-LEADING MEMBERS OF THERON COMMISSION, INCLUDING PROF. ERIKA THERON, HAVE ISSUED STATEMENT CRITICIZING RECENTLY-ISSUED SAG WHITE PAPER ON THE COMMISSIONS REPORT. PROF. THERON PLANS TO ESTABLISH NEW COMMITTEE OF PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS TO WORK FOR FULLER IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING PUBLICATIONS OF WHITE PAPER GIVING SAG'S DETAILED RESPONSE TO THERON COMMISSION REPORT ON STATUS OF "COLOREDS" IN S.AFRICA (REFTEL) SEVEN COMMISSION MEMBERS INCLUDING CHAIRWOMAN ERIKA THERON, ISSUED STATEMENT CALLING DIRECT COLORED REPRESENTATION AT NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS AN "URGENT NECESSITY", ADN DEPLORING SAG REFUSAL TO REPEAL MIXED MARRIAGES AND PARTS OF IMMORALITY ACT AND STRONGLY UNCLASSIFIED

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CRITIZING OVERALL SAG RESPONSE. STATEMENT SAID WHITE PAPER REFLECTED "G FRAGMENTARY" APPROACH, THAT IT LACKED "CLEAR GUIDELINES" FOR FUTURE CO-EXISTENCE OF DIFFERENT POPULATION GROUPS AND IT "DOUBTFUL" THAT SAG HAD CORRECTLY UNDERSTOOD PHILOSOPHY UNDERLYING THE REPORT.

2. THE STATEMENT THANKED SAG FOR INCREASED FUNDS FOR COLORED

HOUSING IN RECENT BUDGET AND FOR ACCEPTANCE "IN PRINCIPLE" OF MANY OF THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF COLOREDS BUT DEPLORED FACT THAT ACCEPTANCE WAS ONLY IN PRINCIPLE GENERALLY UNACCOMPANIED BY ANY SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN FUNDING.

3. UP MP W.G. KINGWILL, ONLY MP MEMBER OF COMMISSION TOLD CONGEN OFF HIS PARTY WILL RAISE THE MATTER "EXTENSIVELY" IN PARLIAMENT DURING DEBATE ON BUDGET APPROPRIATION FOR PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE APRIL 19. CRITICISM OF WHITE PAPER AMONG COLORED LEADERS, OPPOSITION PARTIES AND PRESS CONTINUES WITH EVEN SOME AFRIKAANS PAPERS (NEELD, VADERLAND, DIE TRANSVALER) EXPRESSING DISSAPPOINTMENT. ONW THERON COMMISSION MEMBER ANONYMOUSLY QUOTED AS TERMING THE WHITE PAPER A "WHITEWASH". DIE BURGER, ON OTHER HAND, RELECTING NATIONALIST PARTY LINE, HAS PICTURED SAG RESPONSE AS A "HOPEFUL DOCUMENT" WHICH ACCEPTED "OVERWHELMING MAJORITY" OF COMMISSIONS RECOMMENDATION. BURGER EDITORIAL CALLS ON ELECTED COLORED LEADERS (I.E. LABOR PARTY) TO ABANDON "BOYCOTT AND CONFRONTATION" IN FAVOR OF COOPERATION WITH SAG.

4. IN ARTICLE IN AFRIKAANS NEWSPAPER RAPPORT ON APRIL 17, PROF. THERON SAID THOSE OUTSIDE PARTY POLITICS MUST MAKE GREATER CONTRIBUTION. SHE PLANS ESTABLISH NEW BI-RACIAL COMMITTEE TO ENCOURAGE FULLER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND MONITOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THOSE ACCEPTED BY SAG IN PRINCIPLE.

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5. SAG WHITE PAPER WAS ISSUED INITIALLY IN AFRIKAANS. WILL FORWARD MORE EXTENSIVE ANALYSIS WHEN ENGLISH TRANSLATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.

WHITE

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